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Keeping the Heat in

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Keeping the Heat in

My husband is gone now
and our bed, plump with blankets,
will not stay warm. I hear motors
all evening, and the sliding glass doors
let headlights, those easy intruders,
slip through my drapes.

I imagine his body, miles away,
huddled in down, beneath a thin sky
of canvas. His heart becomes
the fetus, the tiny fist pounding.
My own body numbs, and I meditate
on the blossom of my womb closing.

Still, something makes me rise
to check the locks, a night-noise
quiet as insects; the house settling
in the wet December earth, the water
pipes tightening.

— Susan LeRoy